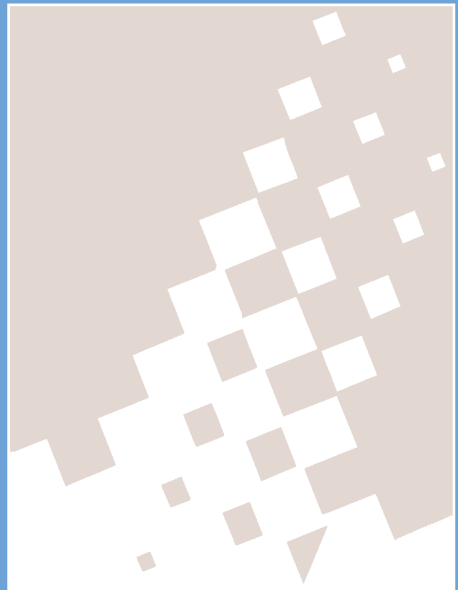


# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*The World Wide Web*



The Council on  
Environmental Quality

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# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



## The 1997 Report of the Council on Environmental Quality



Printed on Recycled Paper

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This report will be available on the White House web site (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/CEQ>).

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Under the direction of CEQ Chair George Frampton and Chief of Staff Wesley Warren, this 1997 edition of *Environmental Quality* was prepared by Robert Livernash, who served as the primary author of the Part II chapters. Carroll Curtis coordinated data collection and prepared the figures and tables.

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## TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress the 1997 Annual Report on Environmental Quality.

One of the foundations of good government is good information. This is especially true when it comes to decisions about our environment—decisions that often rest on the complex interplay of scientific, economic, and social considerations, with consequences that may last many lifetimes. Good information is all the more critical if these decisions are to be made democratically.

Thanks to a visionary act of Congress nearly 30 years ago, our Federal agencies and the American public today have the benefit of a wealth of information on the state of our environment and on the potential environmental impacts of major actions proposed by the Federal Government. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is, at its core, a mandate for informed, democratic decisionmaking. And its contribution to environmental protection is incalculable.

NEPA came at the very dawn of the information revolution—the rapid series of technological advances that today allow us instant access to reams of information on virtually any topic imaginable. But, as anyone who uses the Internet knows, this capability may be more a burden than a blessing if users do not have guideposts to find the information that is most helpful.

For those dedicated to studying and protecting our environment, this edition of the Annual Report on Environmental Quality is such a roadmap. Along with its customary compilation of environmental statistics and trends, the report provides a comprehensive guide to Federal environmental resources available via the Internet—everything from the latest nationwide measures of air and water quality to a detailed environmental profile of our individual communities.

By easing citizens' access to good information, we help to fulfill the vision of NEPA, strengthen our democracy, and ensure a clean, healthy environment for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

THE WHITE HOUSE



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The President:

Sir: The Council on Environmental Quality herewith transmits its Environmental Quality Report for 1997 in accordance with section 201 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4341).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George T. Frampton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

George T. Frampton  
Chair